

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01

AID-20 AF-10 DRC-01 /181 W  
----- 012859

R 151200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 247

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2849

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF COLOMBO 2823

1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CEYLON DAILY NEWS HAS EDITORIAL NOV 15 TITLED PEACE ZONE WHICH INCLUDES COMMENT ON HANCOCK TASK FORCE AND AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AREA. THEME IS THAT BIG POWER RIVALRY INTRODUCES TENSIONS WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT LITTORAL COUNTRIES AND THAT ENTRY OF US TASK FORCE GIVES ADDED URGENCY TO INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) PROPOSAL. AS PART OF ITS OVERVIEW, EDITORIAL SAYS: "THE AMERICANS MAY BE QUIETLY ABANDONING THE IDEA OF A PAX AMERICANA BUT THEY ARE STILL THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST POWER, WHICH, BY DEFINITION, MUST POLICE THOSE AREAS THAT TOUCH, IN THEIR VIEW, AMERICA'S VITAL INTERESTS. AND THE LEADERS IN THE KREMLIN ARE SITLL CAPTIVATED BY THE TSARIST DREAM OF OUTLEST TO WARM WATERS FOR THE NAVY OF A VAST LAND-LOCKED COUNTRY. SINCE THE CARIBBEAN DEBACLE, THE USSR HAS RAPIDLY EXPANDED ITS NAVY TO CHALLENGE THE US". AND LATER: "THE USSR HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGING AMERICA'S DOMINANCE OF THE SEA". "THESE CONFLICTS ARE BEYOND  
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OUT CONTROL. THEY CAN ONLY DISTRACT US FROM THE PRIMARY TASK

OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT". COMMENT: AS RESULT GOVERNMENT TAKE-OVER AND CONTROL OF DAILY NEWS, EMBASSY BELIEVES EDITORIAL LHEY REFLECT FAITHFULLY VIEWS OF MANY LEADERS IN GSL. COPY OF EDITORIAL BEING POUCHED.

2. LEFTIST WEEKLY JANAVEGAYA CONTINUED ANTI-AMERICAN LINE (SEE REFTEL) IN EDITORIAL PRINTED NOV 10 ISSUE. ARTICLE SAYS IT IS DUTY OF ALL PEACE-LOVINOPNATIONS TO DENOUNCE US NAVAL BUILDUP IN INDIAN OCEAN. IT ALSO BRINGS IN DIEGO GARCIA AND URGES US TO WITHDRAW FROM INDIAN OCEAN AND CLOSE DOWN "BASE" IN DIEGO GARCIA.

3. IN OLY FURTHER OFFICIAL COMMENT, OBSERVER STORY NOV 14 QUOTES MDFA DEPMIN LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY AS SAYING, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERBPS QUESTION, THAT: "WE ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ANY KIND OF WORLD POWER PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION." ARTICLE INDICATES JAYAKODY DWELT MAINLY ON IOPZ PROPOSAL.

4. DURING INFORMAL LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR NOV 14, JAYAKODY RAISED HANCOCK TASK FORCE, ASKING ABOUT ITS COMPOSITION AND WHETHER IT WAS STOPPING AT DIEGO GARCIA. AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM COMPOSITON OF TASK FORCE AND EXPLAINED ITS PRESENCE IS PART MN US PRACTICE TO SEND SHIPS INTO INDIAN OCEAN PERIODICALLY. (STATE 224312) ALSO SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR TASK FORCE TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH DIEGO GARCIA. JAYAKODY SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME PRESSURE WITHIN GSL BY THOSE WHO FELT IT INCUMBENT UPON GSL TO ISSUE STATEMENT DENOUNCING TASK FORCE'S PRESENCE. PRESSURE STIMULATED BY INDIAN FOREGIN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S STATEMENT ON TASK FORCE AND CEYLONENE SPONSORSHIP OF IOPZ PROPOSAL. JAYAKODY SAID HE TOOK POSITION THAT IN ORDER HAVE EFFECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT GSL HAS TO SHOOT OFF ITS MOUTH. THIS VIEW HAD BECOME AGREED POSITION. HOWEVER, WHEN OBSERVER QUERIED HIM, HE HAD MADE GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT DISLIKE OF PRESENCE OF ANY MAJOR POWER RATHER THAN MAKE STATEMENT DIRECTED ONLY AT UNITED STATES. AMBASSADOR TOLD JAYAKODY WE APPRECIATE RESTRAINT AND UNDERSTANDING GSL HAS DEMONSTRATED ON THIS ISSUE.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL FORCES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT  
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**Draft Date:** 15 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 DEC 2001  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN  
**TAGS:** MARR, XO, US, UR, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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